

# GREENBELT News Review

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JANUARY 27, 2005

## Summit Coalition Reviews Top Four Environmental Issues

by Marat Moore

On January 17, the Citizens' Campaign for the Environment, a statewide network, sponsored the 11th Annual Environmental Summit in the Miller Senate building in Annapolis, where more than 300 concerned citizens heard legislators address legislative priorities to protect the state's environment in 2005. The coalition includes the Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 1000 Friends of Maryland, the Sierra Club and other groups.

In the opening weeks of the 90-day legislative session, the four top environmental issues are protection of the state's public lands ("open space"), air pollution, clean cars and transportation equity – using transportation funds efficiently and equitably on projects that will benefit all of the state. Bills will be introduced in all four areas during the 2005 legislative session. The coalition opposes construction of the Intercounty Connector (ICC) as ineffective in solving traffic problems, costly and destructive to

the environment.

Participants heard remarks from Senate President Mike Miller, Speaker of the House Mike Busch, Department of Environment Secretary Kendl Philbrick, the chairs of the Senate and House environmental committees, Senator Paula Hollinger and Delegate Maggie MacIntosh. Numerous other legislators were in the audience.

"Being good to the environment is being good to the economy," said Speaker of the House Michael Busch.

Referring to the Open Space program, he added, "Maryland has one of the most comprehensive land preservation programs in the U.S. It's a model for other states. We need to go back to that blueprint and protect our environmentally sensitive lands."

The keynote speaker was Eric Schaeffer, a former head of enforcement for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who resigned in protest in 2002 after the White House enacted changes that weakened the

agency's ability to enforce anti-pollution laws. Schaeffer, who lives in Takoma Park, formed a nonprofit group, the Environmental Integrity Project, that uses advocacy and original research to improve enforcement of federal environmental laws.

"Maryland is behind the curve on the Clean Air Act, especially its power plants," Schaeffer told the crowd. Three-quarters of the state's energy comes from high-sulfur coal without "scrubbers" on the smokestacks.

"In 2004, 268,000 tons of sulfur dioxide were released in Maryland," he said. "That's a reduction of less than five percent in 15 years." Sulfur dioxide causes acid rain and reacts with ammonia in the atmosphere to create fine particulates, which Schaeffer said "you could put next to drunk driving in terms of its public impact."

According to the EPA, air pollution caused by six power plants in Maryland cost \$2.6 bil-

See **SUMMIT**, page 6

## Mayor Davis Now Heads Council of Governments

by Carol Griffith

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) on January 12 elected Greenbelt's Mayor Judith Davis to chair its board of directors. The board also appointed two vice chairs, Arlington County Board Member G.N. Jay Fissette and District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams and several chairs of policy committees.

COG is an organization of Washington-area governments and representatives from state legislatures. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life and competitive advantages of the area in the global economy. This is accomplished through consensus building and policy making as well as implementing intergovernmental policies and plans and providing information. Most issues are recognized as requiring a long-term vision and commitment to action.

In 1957, the cities of College Park, Rockville and Takoma Park were among the founders of COG. Greenbelt and Gaithersburg joined in the 60s. Many of



**Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis**

these cities could not join today due to a base population requirement. COG membership now includes jurisdictions in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Davis says she is "glad that Greenbelt had the foresight to add its voice to the regional discussion" and assist in adding a small-city viewpoint to COG. She notes that she is the second person from Greenbelt to be honored with the chair position, former Mayor Gil Weidenfeld was the first.

### Issues

Davis explains that though many of the same issues are being addressed today as in earlier years, such as growth and traffic, there are currently added concerns. These include homeland security, air quality and the Chesapeake Bay. Davis adds that the Chesapeake Bay issues were initially addressed only by a panel but now by a full committee with more input and influence.

Davis said that it is "quite an honor" to be elected chair of the

See **DAVIS**, page 6

### Part 4

## Reporter Meets Pilot's Son; Together They Seek Closure

by Timothy G. Smith

*The reporter searches on the ground, researches through the Navy's records and obtains a copy of a newspaper article with a photo of the crash site, now a cleared farm field he had already searched. Disappointed there would be no wrecked plane, he still has questions to answer and closure to find.*

I was still awaiting word on my search permits from the National Fish and Wildlife Service and NASA when I received a call from Holliday Obrecht. Obrecht was a longtime employee of the National Fish and Wildlife Service who had heard about my activities through the grapevine. He had worked at the Beltsville site since the late seventies and was very familiar with the area. He

also was a light plane pilot who had actually flown into the Beltsville Airfield before it was closed.

Obrecht said he had heard stories about the crashed plane from World War II but was sure the wreckage was removed almost immediately afterward. He couldn't shed any more light on the incident I was researching but he gave me the name of Pete Godwin, an old friend of his, who possibly could.

I called Godwin and asked about the World War II crash. He only had second-hand information. He was working at the site of the water table contamination experiment 10 or 12 years ago when an old man stopped by and struck up a conversation.

They talked for an hour or so. The old man had worked at the nearby Hayden Farm when it was a dairy long ago and he wanted to share stories about all the things that had happened.

One of those stories was about the plane that crashed during the war. He remembered many details: the fire, the injured and dead and the crash location. He indicated where the wreckage came to rest on one of the farm fields and even pointed out signs of damage to the tree line caused by the crash. Godwin could not remember the old man's name and, since he had appeared to be in his late eighties 10 or 12 years ago, he was reasonably certain the old man was dead by now. The location given by the old man was one more confirmation of the map position I had estimated for the site of the crash.

I was beginning to accept the fact that the aircraft wreckage was gone, removed shortly after it crashed, but I had one last question: what is the source of the rumor that wreckage of a DC-3 was in the woods near the airfield?

Godwin had an answer for that one as well. He said that during

See **CLOSURE**, page 12

## Greenbriar Condominiums Complete Renovations

by Carol Griffith

The Greenbriar Condominiums on Hanover Parkway has a bright, fresh new look after the recent renovation but the "real story," according to Steve Bupp, owner and president of Condominium Ventures, Inc. (CVI), is that "15 independent-minded people made an agreement and stuck with it, with the intent of seeing the project through from start to finish."

The lobby of each of the 50 buildings was paneled in part and repainted a lighter color with an arch design added around the mailboxes and bulletin board. The railings leading up and down the stairways were changed to a new design and light color and there are new stair treads. New carpet with a long life expectancy has been installed throughout the common areas as well as new tile floors around the trash room and its entrance on terrace levels. In every building new recessed lighting occurs on the top floor and in one building every floor has been renovated to include recessed lighting. The common areas are much brighter while using less energy because of the reflective quality of the new lights and

wall treatments.

The entrances to individual units now look very different. The new carpet includes areas of special doormat-like material in front of each door. New trim around each door and brass kickplates, knockers and peepholes are visually appealing.

This project owes a great deal to Larry Noda, a professional real estate appraiser and Phase I president. In the course of his business he had the idea of renovating Greenbriar, originally planned as a rental community in 1973-74 and constructed beginning with Phase I in 1974. The two subsequent phases began in 1976 and 1978.

Noda took pictures of projects he liked and brought them back to the boards of each phase with a questionnaire in 1998 to assess interest in renovation. As enough interest was expressed, the next step was to hold meetings with the residents who favored the idea and decided to move forward with the plan.

An architect, Rohit Anand of Design Concepts Architects, was hired after submitting ideas for

See **GREENBRIAR**, page 6

### What Goes On

**Saturday, January 29**

**9 a.m. to noon**, Electronics Recycling, Buddy Attick Park

**Wednesday, February 2**

**7 p.m.**, Meeting on Revitalized Springhill Lake Community, SHL residents only, SHL Elementary School auditorium

**Thursday, February 3**

**7 p.m.**, Meeting on Revitalized Springhill Lake Community, Greenbelt-wide community, SHL Elementary School auditorium



# Folk Music, Sculpture Show Headlines Artful Afternoon

The city’s next Artful Afternoon, to be held at the Greenbelt Community Center on Sunday, February 6 from 1 to 5 p.m., will feature songs and stories by Sparky and Rhonda Rucker. Artists’ exhibits and a reception for the new Shayna Skolnik exhibit in the Municipal Building are also scheduled.

According to folk singer Pete Seeger, “Sparky Rucker is unique! He’ll make you glad to be alive.” Sparky and Rhonda Rucker will perform free at the next Artful Afternoon in their show, “Heroes and Hard Times: A Black Folk Odyssey” on Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Community Center.



**Sparky and Rhonda Rucker will perform "Heroes and Hard Times: A Black Folk Odyssey" on Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Community Center.**

Scheduled at 3 p.m. at the Community Center, the show is a journey of songs and stories through 400 years of African-American cultural and folk history from slavery and the Underground Railroad to the birth of the blues and the Civil Rights movement. Sparky’s deft guitar, banjo and spoons-playing blends like a charm with Rhonda’s harmonica and voice. This show is suitable for all ages.

### Sculpture Exhibit

In the Gallery see Bruce Gugliuzza’s vibrant wood sculpture evoking spores and otherwise out-of-sight creatures. Larger than one would expect, Gugliuzza’s pieces bring to mind questions of “What could that be inspired by?” and “How ever did he create it?” Add to wonder about life by seeing this show.

The show continues through February 16 in the Community Center Gallery (open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week, except when the room is reserved). The artist’s reception will be held during the Artful Afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Gallery.

A free, hands-on art project for attendees of all ages will be held earlier in the Community Center studios from 1 to 3 p.m.

### Watercolors

The new show at the Municipal Building Gallery is called “Cafe Olé: Watercolors by Shayna Sara Skolnik.” Those who have sat at a café or restaurant casually observing the other patrons stirring their coffee, reading the morning paper or chatting with the waiters will relate to this show. Skolnik explores this aspect of everyday life in her new series of paintings in watercolor and watercolor with ink. The series is the culmination of three years’ work; most of

the paintings are based on actual places in southern Spain, where the artist resides for part of the year. The show will be on view through February 28 at the Municipal Building Gallery, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, whenever the room is not reserved. The artist’s reception will be held during the Artful Afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m.

### Other Activities

Throughout the afternoon from 1 to 5 p.m. artists will be creating artwork in the working studios of the artists-in-residence on the third floor of the Community Center. Studios are also open for visiting when artists are working throughout the week. This is a great time for artists who are interested in applying for studio space to view the location, as applications are now available for the artist-in-residence program.

For historic perspectives on Greenbelt, enjoy guided tours from 1 to 5 p.m. of the historic home at 10-B Crescent Road operated by the Greenbelt Museum. Also visit the museum’s exhibit at the Community Center, “Living the Healthy Life,” which explores the history of sport, health and fitness in the New Deal Era. This exhibit is open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Artful Afternoons are held the first Sunday of every month from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. Artful Afternoon programs are a suitable outing for families and people of all ages as well as an introduction to the many programs and classes available through the City of Greenbelt’s Department of Recreation.

For more information call Barbara Dickey Davis at 240-542-2062.

# Ice Raiders Hold Lead in League

by Ken Fox

In the game on January 21 the Eleanor Roosevelt Ice Raiders squad went 7-2 in Maryland Scholastic Hockey League competition with a 6-4 victory over the Ryken Knights from St. Mary’s County. (Roosevelt’s record changed to 8-1 after a loss became a win as a result of a forfeiture.) The Ice Raiders skated to a 4-0 lead in the first 19 minutes of play and then led to the finish.

Mike Kerdock topped the Raiders’ scoring with two goals and two assists, team captain Matt Fox and forward Alyssa Walker each tallied one goal and one assist, and assistant captains Tony Buemi and Dan Adkins each notched a single goal. Raider goalie Josh Harab had 25 saves.

On Monday, January 24 the Raiders scored two historic firsts at Bowie Ice Arena when they beat Bowie High School (BHS) and extended their winning record to 9-1.

The ERHS v. Bowie ice hockey game was shortened by 10 minutes because of scheduling and refereeing glitches. The winning goal was scored by Mike Roberts with assists from team captain Fox and forward Kerdock with 25 seconds remaining in the second full period of play. Kerdock had scored three goals earlier. Fox and Harab also tallied one each. Further assists were credited to Fox (2), Kerdock (2), Thomas Schwenn and Andy Somich.

Bowie co-captain Evan Guinn and defenseman John Constable each scored two goals and forward David Austin scored one. Assists went to Austin, Gwinn, Navid Marvi, Jonathan Monroe and Mike Vaughan. ERHS goalie Grant Mitchell made 24 saves. BHS goalie David Newton stopped 19 shots.

Bowie public access cable TV channel 77 will telecast the game as a special by “Science Links.”

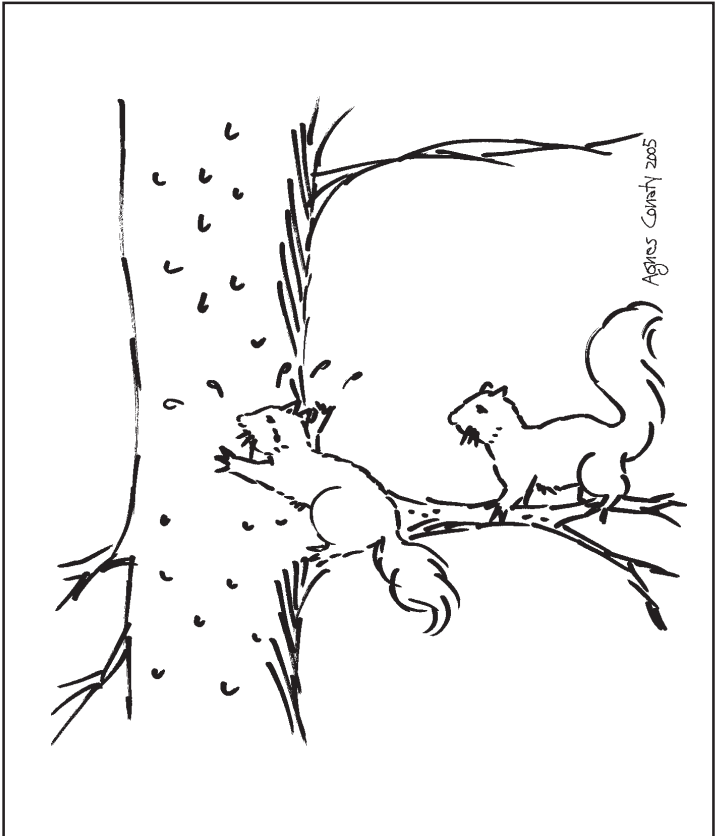
# SHL Revitalization Community Meetings

Two meetings will be held next week concerning plans for the revitalization of Springhill Lake.

On Wednesday, February 2 residents of Springhill Lake are invited by the owners of the complex to hear a presentation on their future plans. A question and answer session will follow.

On Thursday, February 3 the wider Greenbelt community is invited to a similar meeting. Both meetings will be held at 7 p.m. in the Springhill Lake Elementary School. (See ad on page 3.)

## Grin Belt



"Jerome, are you upset because the ICC might uproot this maple tree or because your football team is not going to the Super Bowl?"

# Help the Bluebirds At the Nature Center

Help naturalists maintain bluebird nest boxes and kestrel trails and learn to identify different kinds of bird eggs and baby birds at the Nest Box Work Day on Saturdays, February 5 and 26 from 1 to 4 p.m. These are outdoor activities, so dress for the weather and bring a bag lunch. Meet at Clearwater Nature Center, located at 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton for a vanpool to various locations. Reservations are required. Teens, ages 14 and up, can earn community service hours. For information call Clearwater Nature Center at 301-297-4575, TTY 301-699-2544.

# Nature Tots Features Squirrels

Children ages 3 to 4 are invited to “Nature Tots: Bright-Eyed and Bushy-Tailed,” an interactive program about squirrels on Sunday, January 30 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. at the National Wildlife Visitor’s Center of the Patuxent Research Refuge. The program is free but reservations must be made by calling 301-497-5887.

The National Wildlife Visitor’s Center is located on Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Route 197.

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Eileen Farnham, president; James Giese, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Pat Davis, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell and Al Geiger.

DEADLINES: Letters, articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

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# Community Events

## Explore Landscaping with an Expert

The Explorations Unlimited program for Friday, February 4 is titled “The Rise of Invasive Ornamentals: Plant Collecting and Landscape Traditions.” It will be presented by John Peter Thompson at 1 p.m. in the Greenbelt Community Center Senior Classroom. Thompson will briefly cover Western garden traditions and talk about their origins in the “Garden of Eden.” He will discuss how fads in gardening were encouraged by plant collection/exploration and how those fashions in turn encouraged more exploration. Various trends – the search for “new,” the desire to have one’s own English estate and the infringement of the suburbs into the country have resulted in some ornamentals escaping cultivation and causing problems for natural lands managers. The need to plant the “right plant in the right place” requires that gardening professionals and the gardening public carefully evaluate what they are planting. Thompson distinguishes between the native plants gardening movement and the problems posed by invasive plants.

Thompson is president, C.E.O. and chairman of the board of the Behnke Nurseries Company. The company was founded in 1930 by Thompson’s grandparents, Albert and Rose Behnke. Thompson has a diverse background. He spent most of his childhood learning to garden from his grandfather, one weed at a time. He attended the University of Maryland majoring in music and languages and his pastime is history. After a stint in the restaurant business he returned to Behnke Nurseries in 1988. He spent a number of years at the growing facility where he oversaw the perennial production and sales and then moved to the business offices in Beltsville.

In addition to directing the company, Thompson is very ac-

tive in community organizations such as the Prince George’s County Chamber of Commerce, the Friends of the Library, the Laurel Hospital, the Union Cemetery and the United Communities Against Poverty among other things. He is a frequent lecturer at the University of Maryland Senior University where he presents courses on topics as diverse as the History of the Papacy, the First Ladies, Modern Music and the History of the Supreme Court.

Over the past few years Thompson has become quite knowledgeable of the issues surrounding invasive plants and the aspects that affect the green industry. He is president of the Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) committee on invasive plants. He represents MNLA as a nursery representative to the Maryland Invasive Species Council. He also represents MNLA as a member of the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council, for which he is a founding board member and currently serves as president. Thompson was recently appointed to the Invasive Species Advisory Committee which advises the White House on invasive species issues. He is also the nursery industry representative to the Chesapeake Landscape Council which advocates landscaping that is beneficial to the Chesapeake Bay.

His goal is to act as a channel between nursery and environmental groups with the hope that they can work together to both fight and prevent what are essentially weed problems in natural areas.

Explorations Unlimited is a speaker series held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center. This presentation will be held in the Senior Classroom. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are always encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

## ACE Is Looking For Young Writers

Time is running out to enter the Third Annual ACE Reading Club Youth Writing Contest. Students in grades 6 through 12 who live or attend school in Greenbelt are eligible to enter the writing contest, which focuses on poetry and short fiction. The theme for this year’s contest is “New Beginnings.” There are two divisions: Junior (grades 6 through 8) and Senior (grades 9 through 12). Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three selections in each division. Entries are due by February 28 and should be addressed to ACE Reading Club, Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

There is no charge to enter the contest. Questions should be directed to Liz Murray, coordinator of the ACE Reading Club, by phone at 301-345-6660 or by email at lmurray@greenbeltmd.gov.

The ACE Reading Club is a community-based reading program originally established through a grant acquired by the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education and now funded by the City of Greenbelt.

## Goddard Hosts “Eyes on the Sky”

In honor of the World Year of Physics 2005, NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center invites people to a special series of lectures and discussions on cosmology and astrophysics with some of the world’s leading scientists. These lectures “Eyes on the Sky – Peeking into the Universe’s Past, Fathoming the Future” are open to the public but are geared toward the high school/college level and above.

All lectures will take place on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. from February 10 through May 12 at NASA Goddard’s Visitor Center. While the events are free, registration is required.

For more information on “Eyes on the Sky” or to register for an event, visit <http://university.gsfc.nasa.gov/eyeonthesky/> or call 301-286-8102.

The first lecture will be on February 10. It features scientist Mike Turner, University of Chicago, National Science Foundation, who will talk on “Beyond Einstein: Eleven Science Questions for the New Century.”

## Special Education Public Forum

The Special Education PEER Committee reviews issues and recommends improvements to better meet the needs of special education students. The community is encouraged to share their suggestions for the Special Education Program in Prince George’s County by participating in their upcoming forum on February 2 at 7 p.m. at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, 7601 Hanover Parkway. To register to speak, call 301-952-6336 the day of the hearing.

## Rid Greenbelt Park Of Invasive Plants

Help remove invasive plants from Greenbelt Park. Meet at the Sweetgum Picnic Area at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 5. This is a hands on nature activity for all ages. Dress warmly and bring gloves and water. For more information call 301-344-3944 or visit the park’s website at <http://www.nps.gov/gree>.

## ACE Club Workshop Is Huge Success

Twenty-two 7th and 8th grade students attended a Creative Writing Workshop hosted by the ACE Reading Club at Greenbelt Middle School on January 12. There were interactive writing exercises as well as lecture and discussion. The workshop was held to encourage students to enter this year’s ACE Reading Club Youth Writing Contest. The workshop generated ideas for future writing projects. It was such a success that the club plans to hold a workshop again next year in partnership with Wayne Davis, a guidance counselor at Greenbelt Middle School.

## Info Offered On MSA Tests

On February 1 from 7 to 8 p.m. the Greenbelt Elementary School PTA is having a presentation on the upcoming Maryland School Assessment (MSA) tests. Peggy Harrington, from the Prince George’s County Public Schools, will give the presentation and take questions at Greenbelt Elementary School, 66 Ridge Road. For directions call 301-513-5911.

## At the Library

Tuesday, February 1, 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, newborns to 24 months with caregiver. Limited to 15 babies.

Wednesday, February 2, 10:30 a.m. – Storytime for ages 14 to 36 months with caregiver, limit 15.

Thursday, February 3, 10:30 a.m. – Storytime for ages 3 to 5, limit 20.

## Service Projects At Greenbelt Park

Greenbelt Park has service projects available for Scouts and other groups. Cleanup projects are one of many opportunities for groups or companies to help. Greenbelt Park’s entrance is located between Kenilworth Avenue and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway at 6565 Greenbelt Road. For more information, call Park Ranger Kevin P. Barry at 301-344-3944.

# A Reading: Letters Home From the Ukraine

by Matt Schultz and Bill Varettoni

Bill and I met in Chicago in the summer of 2000 during the staging of Peace Corps Ukraine group number 18. Staging is the time when all members of a Peace Corps group get together to sign forms and meet each other before departing for their country of service. Traveling from Chicago to Kiev was a harbinger of the chaotic nature that my life would take on for the next two years. Our plane was delayed in Chicago due to heavy thundershowers and we missed our connecting flight from London. We ended up in Moscow briefly although none of us had Russian visas. Luckily a member of our group spoke Russian and was able to explain the situation to the authorities in Sheremetyevo Airport. When we finally arrived in Kiev we were exhausted and fell into our beds. The next trip was down “a central transportation artery” to Cherkassy, in central Ukraine. The “artery” turned out to be a two-lane highway. At least it seemed to be a two-lane highway. There was no central yellow line and no white lines on the edges. Our bus would pass a slower vehicle such as a horse-drawn cart stacked high with vegetables or hay. Oblivious to oncoming traffic, I learned that there actually was space for three lanes on the “highway.”

After our time in central Ukraine, Bill went east almost to

the Russian border, to Kharkiv which was briefly the capital of Ukraine after WWII.

I went west, to the beautiful spiritual homeland of Ukraine, where churches still stood and the Ukrainian language was revered. My destiny was not to be the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Market Square Lviv, famous for architectural masterpieces of the 16th and 17th centuries. No, it was humble Sosnivka, a mining town carved out of lovely pine woods.

I learned to love Sosnivka despite the black smoke belching out of the two mines and the humongous coal processing plant that at times made it tough to breathe. I loved Sosnivka despite the cruel irony that sometimes in winter, we didn’t have enough coal to heat the school where I taught English. Our town was Sosnivka and it wasn’t our place to complain, even though practically the entire male population of the town worked in the coal mines . . . .

For more stories from Ukraine, come to the New Deal Café on February 2 from 7 to 8 p.m. and hear the authors read excerpts from letters that they wrote home during their service in Ukraine from 2000 to 2002. After the readings there will be time for questions about Peace Corps service.

Greenbelt Arts Center Presents

Cole Porter's

You Never Know

January 28, 29, February 4, 5 at 8 p.m.  
Sun., January 30 at 5 p.m.  
Sun., February 6 at 2 p.m.

Tickets \$15/Students & Seniors \$12

Greenbelt Arts Center  
123 Centerway (next to the Post Office)  
Reservations: 301-441-8770  
[www.greenbeltartscenter.org](http://www.greenbeltartscenter.org)

Community Meeting

Concerning a Revitalized

Springhill Lake

Apartment Investment and Management Company (AIMCO), owner of Springhill Lake Apartments, will host a community meeting to discuss its vision for the 157-acre community in Greenbelt, Maryland, and to hear the community’s ideas.

Springhill Lake, with construction begun in 1963, is in need of renovation. AIMCO is considering a totally new community which provides an historic opportunity to rebuild the area using the best planning techniques. Mike Watkins from the firm Duany Plater-Zyberk and Company (DPZ) will present the vision for the community and answer questions. Springhill Lake management also will be available for questions.

WHEN: Thursday, February 3 at 7 p.m.

WHERE: Springhill Lake Elementary School Auditorium  
6060 Springhill Drive  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

INFORMATION: Call 301-474-1602, X16.



Obituaries

Paul J. Heffernan

Paul John Heffernan, 66, died Tuesday, January 18, 2005, of arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease at his home on Hillside Road. Mr. Heffernan was born in River Vale, N.J., in 1939. He grew up in Harrington Park, N.J., and graduated from Dumont High School. He attended the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he graduated with honors as a member of Phi Beta Kappa in 1962. He earned a master's degree in electrical engineering at Johns Hopkins University and joined the staff of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the 1960s when it was still a young organization.

Mr. Heffernan worked at Goddard Space Flight Center as an aerospace engineer in the development and deployment of communications satellites, most recently with the Tracking and Data Relay Satellites (TDRS) program, sometimes nicknamed "NASA's switchboard in the sky." His work fascinated him and gave him opportunities to travel both throughout the United States and abroad. He received a number of awards including NASA's medal for exceptional service.

Mr. Heffernan had a passion for music. He was a skilled flamenco and classical guitarist. He studied and performed in the Washington, D.C., and San Francisco areas. His connections with the Spanish music and dance community brought him a unique opportunity in 1962 to host a party at his parents' home in Harrington Park at which legendary flamenco dancer Carmen Amaya, along with Amor and Fernando Sirvent, Gabriel Ruiz, Paco Amaya, Antonio Pucherete and a troupe of dancers and guitarists, danced until sunup. Mr. Heffernan traveled frequently to Spain, visiting family and touching base with gypsy heirs of flamenco throughout Andalusia.

He is survived by his sisters Constance McGann of Teaneck, N.J.; Elaine Heffernan of Greenbelt; Margaret Heffernan Jimenez of Cordoba, Spain; and Nancy Williams of Monterey, Cal.; and by many nieces and nephews in New Jersey, New York, Florida, California, Con-

necticut and in Madrid, Huelva and Cordoba, Spain, and by a growing number of great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Paul and Margaret Heffernan of Harrington Park, N.J.

Friends may visit on Friday, January 28 between 2 and 4 p.m. and 7 and 9 p.m. at the Becker Funeral Home, 219 Kinderkamack Road, Westwood, NJ 07675. Interment will be on Saturday, January 29 after an 11 a.m. service at the Becker Home.

Dorothy L. Powers

Former Greenbelter Dorothy Louise Powers, 87, died Tuesday, January 18, 2005, at Kingston Nursing Home Center, Conway, S.C.

Mrs. Powers was born in Washington, D.C., a daughter of Archie Nelson and Rosabelle Knott Flynn. She and her husband Eugene M. Powers and family lived at 10-C Southway from the late 50s to the early 80s. Mrs. Powers lived in Ocean Lakes, S.C., for 20 years. She loved to play bingo.

Her husband and son Gene Flynn preceded her in death.

She is survived by daughter Dorothy Leaman and husband Mark of Conway, S.C.; sons John Powers and wife Judy of Frederick, Md., and James Powers and wife Debbie of Edgewater, Md.; five grandchildren, Gene-vieve Leaman of Spartanburg, S.C., Tim Powers of Chicago; Scott Powers, Edgewater, Md.; Wendy Osiki, Manassas, Va.; and Caren Knoll, Winchester, Va.; three great-grandchildren, Colleen, Patrick and Sean Osiki, Manassas, Va.

An online guest book is available by visiting <http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>. Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

No services are planned.



We send our condolences to Mary Ann Baker and her family on the death of her mother Mary McGovern. Mrs. McGovern, a familiar visitor to Greenbelt, died on December 26, 2004, in Pittsburgh. She often visited her late daughter Linda Lynch and husband Jim and grandson Joe.

Our sympathy to Elaine Heffernan on the death of her brother Paul J. Heffernan.

Greenbelters were sorry to hear of the death of former Greenbelter Dorothy Powers. Mrs. Powers and her husband Eugene and family lived in 10 Court Southway for around 30 years.

Greenbelters were pleased to see all streets maintained in driving condition by city snow removal crews. Congratulations for a job well done.

Congratulations to our Mayor, Judith Davis, on her election to the chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board of Directors.

Former Greenbelter Brad Hibbs and his wife Karla of Burke, Va., are the proud parents of a son. John Daniel was born January 11, 2005, weighing 7 lbs, 3 oz.

John was welcomed with great joy by grandmother Clara Williams of Roanoke, Va. (Karla's father is deceased) and Greenbelt grandparents Shirley and Ray Hibbs. John is the 17th grandchild for Shirley and Ray.

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville/Adelphi (301-937-3666)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

January 30, 10 a.m.

"In the Footsteps of a Goddess"

Meghan and Cathleen Barnes

and Eva Domater with

Kathleen Davis, worship associate

Barbara Wells ten Hove,

Jaco B. ten Hove,

co-ministers



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111



Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Worship Service

8:45 a.m.

Fellowship

9:15 a.m.

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Bible Class

10:30 a.m.

Worship

Wednesday

7:30 p.m.

Evening Worship



Fax 301-220-0694 • E-mail [myholycross@verizon.net](mailto:myholycross@verizon.net)

ST. HUGH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-474-4322



Mass Schedule:

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Pastor: Fr. Walter J. Tappe

Pastoral Associate: Fr. R. Scott Hurd

Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Hillside & Crescent Roads  
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings

[www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/](http://www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/)

Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m.

Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

"A church of the open mind, the warm heart,  
the aspiring soul, and the social vision..."



Derin – Munk

Rachel Beth Derin, daughter of Stephen and Amy Derin, exchanged wedding vows with Michael Munk on November 13, 2004, under the chuppah at the Walters Museum of Art in Baltimore. The bride's attendants were Dr. Alicia Derin (maid of honor), Dr. Natasha Fine and Carolina Smith. The groomsmen were Bryan Wolinski (best man), Jeffrey Munk and David Munk. Cantor Nancy Ginsberg officiated.

Rachel is a graduate of the Science and Technology Program of Eleanor Roosevelt High School and the University of California, Berkeley. Currently she is employed as a research microbiologist by the National Institutes of Health. Michael, a native of Baltimore, is a master electrician.

Healthy Cooking Class Open to All

Learn to cook nutritious, heart-healthy, cancer-preventing foods. The seminar will be held on Thursday, February 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park. To register for this free event, call 1-800-542-5096.

Scouts Admitted Free to Museum

In honor of the Boy Scouts anniversary celebration, the College Park Aviation Museum near the College Park Airport is offering free admission to Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts in uniform on Sunday, February 6.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

301-474-9410 [www.gbgm-umc.org/mowatt](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/mowatt)



Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor

Sunday School 9:45 am Worship Service 11:00 am

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads 301-474-4212

[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org) [greenbelt.baptist@verizon.net](mailto:greenbelt.baptist@verizon.net)

Dr. Mark Johnson, Pastor



Sun. Worship 8:35 am, 11:00 am

Wed. Praise and Prayer 7:00 pm

Wed. Living Proof, Youth Event 7:00 pm

"Building Bridges to the Family of God thru the Love of Christ"



St. George's Episcopal/Anglican Church

7010 Glenn Dale Road  
(Lanham-Severn Road & Glenn Dale Road)  
301-262-3285 | [rector@stgeo.org](mailto:rector@stgeo.org) | [www.stgeo.org](http://www.stgeo.org)

Sundays:	8:00 am	Simple, quiet Mass
	9:00 am	Christian education for all ages
	10:00 am	Sung Mass with organ and folk music, ASL interpreted
	1:30 pm	Signed Mass (last Sunday of each month only)
Wednesdays:	7:00 pm	Simple, quiet Mass

An inclusive congregation!

PRAY for BRYAN

Paid Advertising

Baha'i Faith

"You must turn attention more earnestly to the betterment of the conditions of the poor. Do not be satisfied until each one with whom you are concerned is to you as a member of your family. Regard each one either as a father, or as a brother, or as a sister, or as a mother, or as a child. If you can attain to this, your difficulties will vanish, you will know what to do."

—Baha'i Sacred Writings

Greenbelt Baha'i Community  
P.O. Box 245  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-345-2918 301-220-3160  
[www.us.bahai.org](http://www.us.bahai.org) [www.us.bahai.org](http://www.us.bahai.org)

YIELD

Giving in charity is one of the important teachings of Islam, greatly rewarded by God and an obligation on every individual who has the means to do so.

"And the likeness of those, who spend their substance, seeking to please God and to strengthen their souls, is as a garden, high and fertile; heavy rain falls on it, but makes it yield a double increase in harvest, and if it receives not heavy rain, light moisture sufficeth it. God seeth well whatever ye do . . . O ye who believe, give of the good things which ye have earned, and of the fruits of the earth which we have produced for you . . ."

— The Holy Qur'an, 2:265 & 267

To find out more about Islam, call 301-982-9463 or e-mail us at [muslimguide@hotmail.com](mailto:muslimguide@hotmail.com) or visit the website [www.islam-guide.com](http://www.islam-guide.com).



# Local Democratic Club Gets Legislative Update

by James Giese

The 22nd District legislators gave a report to the Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club at its January 21 meeting on what is happening in the Maryland General Assembly during the early days of this year’s legislative session. Because of a wake being held that evening for a former area politician, delegates Anne Healey, Tawanna Gaines and Justin Ross spoke at the beginning of the meeting. They left to go to the funeral home after the arrival of Senator Paul Pinsky, who came directly from the wake. The 22nd district includes the City of Greenbelt.

All four Democrats were unhappy with the actions taken by Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich, a Republican. “What the governor is doing wrong” was the theme of the evening, a theme that met receptive ears among the political club’s members.

Healey faulted the governor’s budget not so much for what is in it as for what is not in it. A formula relating to the geographic cost of education that was a part of the Thornton plan and cost \$53 million was not in the budget. It is the only part of the Thornton plan not funded, she said.

State employees will receive a 2 percent cost-of-living adjustment in the budget, but will be expected to pay a greater share of their health insurance costs. On the previous day 140 state employees had gotten their walking papers, she said. They will have until July to find other jobs with the state or elsewhere. Among those let go were the employees who administer the state’s labor laws, Healey reported. No one is left to enforce either the minimum wage or the Fair Labor Standards Act of the state.

The budget is \$300 million above spending affordability. Ehrlich is once more proposing to authorize slot machines to raise additional funds. This time he has sweetened the pot by allocating some of the slot revenues to school construction, Healey said. All the legislators expressed their continued opposition to authorizing slot machines in Maryland.

### Late Budget

Gaines, who is on the appropriations committee, told the audience that this year the budget came out at 5:30 p.m. on January 19. Usually it comes out in September. The budget staff of the legislature has had no time to review the 160-page document.

Besides the Board of Public Works increasing the employee’s share of health insurance last year by an amount that will offset the proposed cost-of-living increase for many employees, the co-pay for medicine has been changed so that an employee can get fewer pills on one co-pay.

The governor did increase the amount of money that the University of Maryland will get by \$40.6 million, Gaines said. However, he vetoed legislation passed in the last session that would have held down tuition costs and the legislature failed to obtain the necessary super-majority vote to override that

veto.

Ross accused the governor of playing a shell game. Of the increased funding in the budget, 77 percent consists of one-time fund transfers. The other 23 percent will be the result of proposed “tax compliance measures,” Ross said. With the governor opposed to increasing taxes, Ross claimed that the governor was using the term “tax compliance measures” instead of calling his proposals what they are, increases in fees and taxes.

Ross further called Program Open Space, a long-time state program used to aid local governments (and Greenbelt) to purchase parks and open space, to be in jeopardy. A major funding source for this program, the transfer tax, is proposed to be used this year to fund the budget. He accused the governor of trying to not only get rid of Program Open Space but to also sell off state park lands.

### Medical Malpractice

Pinsky first talked about the recent special session on medical malpractice insurance. He accused the governor of running around the state talking about a medical malpractice insurance crisis. He then called a legislative session for the week between Christmas and the new year, when many legislators and legislative staff members had already made plans to be away. Pinsky said that the governor knew what the legislature would do before calling the session but did it anyway. The legislature passed a bill that the governor vetoed. Pinsky hopes that the governor’s veto will be overridden.

Pinsky attacked the insurance companies for being a part of the problem. He noted that lawyers taking on malpractice claims have had to handle cases for many years without compensation before adjudication because the insurance companies will do everything they can to delay trial.

“There’s a governor’s malpractice crisis,” Pinsky said. “He doesn’t care about poor people.”

In the last session a bill was passed that raised the amount for the living wage required to be paid to people working on state contracts. The governor vetoed it. Although the bill passed with a sufficient margin to override a veto, five Democrats “took a walk on the veto override” and it lost by three votes, Pinsky said. When asked who the five were, Pinsky named Senate President Mike Miller as one of them.

Pinsky noted that the state budget can only be reduced by the legislature, a legislative restriction not found in most other states. A constitutional amendment has been proposed to change that. It failed to pass by one vote in the last session.

In response to an audience question, Pinsky and others complained about the actions of State Comptroller William Donald Schaefer. Pinsky noted that Schaefer and the governor have been good friends since before Ehrlich became governor. He also reported that Peter Franchot, a delegate from Montgomery County, is expected to run against Schaefer in 2006.



# City Information

## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Saturday, January 29, 2005  
9am-12noon



City residents, businesses and organizations can recycle old and/or unwanted computers and other electronic items. Bring your items to the collection truck located in the lower parking lot of Buddy Attick Park.

- central processing units • hard drives • monitors • keyboards
- printers and copiers • laptop computers • computer speakers
- scanners • computer mice • software • recording equipment

(NO TELEVISIONS OR LARGE STEREO UNITS)  
NEW! TRADE IN YOUR OLD MERCURY FEVER THERMOMETER AND RECEIVE A NEW FREE DIGITAL THERMOMETER!

For further information, contact the City of Greenbelt Recycling Office at 301-474-8308.



## FAMILY SWIM NIGHT

Saturday, January 29th  
7-9:45pm

Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center  
\$3.00 PER FAMILY

Bring your pool toys (no inflatable rafts, floats or balls) for a fun night of swimming, music and more. Noodles and diving rings will be available.

For more info, call the GAFC at 301-397-2204.

## AN ARTFUL AFTERNOON

Sunday, February 6 from 1-5pm at the  
Greenbelt Community Center

Enjoy this free mini-arts festival featuring a studio open house, art exhibits, projects, Greenbelt Museum tours, etc.

**Featuring Sparky & Rhonda Rucker in “Heroes and Hard Times: A Black Folk Odyssey” 3pm FREE!**

Enjoy this journey of songs and stories through 400 years of African-American cultural and folk history, from slavery and the Underground Railroad to the birth of the blues and Civil Rights movement. Sparky’s deft guitar, banjo and spoons playing blends like a charm with Rhonda’s harmonica and voice.

**1-3pm HANDS ON PROJECT** Guests of all ages can enjoy a free, hands-on art project in the Community Center Studios

**3-5pm ART EXHIBIT/RECEPTION** Come see Bruce Gugliuzza’s vibrant wood sculpture evoking spores and otherwise out of sight creatures. On display through February 16th Reception 3-5pm

**2-4pm ART EXHIBIT/RECEPTION** Don’t miss the new exhibit at the Municipal Center, Cafe Ole: Watercolors by Shayna Sara Skolnik. Artist reception will be held from 2-4pm. Exhibit runs through February 28th.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
BARBARA DICKEY DAVIS AT 240-542-2062**

## TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

GREENBELT RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
and GREENBELT ARTS CENTER present

## THE JOY GODS RETURN

A NEW MUSICAL

by Chris Cherry

Performance dates: February 18, 19, 20, 25, and 26. All shows are at 7:00 pm at the Greenbelt Arts Center. Ticket price is \$5. Purchase tickets in person or by phone at the Community Center business office at 15 Crescent Road between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Phone: 301-397-2208.

*The Joy Gods Return* is an original musical set in present-day New York, featuring flashbacks to a 1934 show-within-the-show. It is performed by a cast of 30 talented teenagers, directed by Greenbelt author/composer Chris Cherry.

## OPENINGS ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

**Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups. Vacancies exist on the: Advisory Planning Board Public Safety Advisory Committee Senior Citizens Advisory Committee**

**For more information, please call 301-474-8000.**

## Babysitters wanted for Fit ‘N’ Fun Aerobics Class

at  
Greenbelt Community Center.  
Monday, Wednesday,  
and Friday,  
9:30am to 11:00am. \$7.25/hour.  
Call 301-397-2208  
for more information

## ACE READING CLUB YOUTH WRITING CONTEST IS UNDERWAY!

See [www.ci.greenbelt.md.us](http://www.ci.greenbelt.md.us) for information!

## GREENBELT MUNICIPAL/PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 71 MUNICIPAL ACCESS: 301-474-8000:

**Tuesday & Thursday, February 1 & 3 10am & 6pm**

“Ask the Expert-Avoiding Falls,” **7:00pm** Springhill Lake Recreation Center presents “Father 2 Son,” **8:00pm**

“Greenbelt Museum Lecture,”

### PUBLIC ACCESS

**(GATE): 301-507-6581:**

**Wednesday & Friday, January 26 & 28: 7:00pm**

“Future View,” **7:30pm**

“Greenbelt Writers Group,” **9:00pm**

Greenbelt Arts Center presents “An American Daughter.”

## INVITATION TO BID

The City of Greenbelt, Maryland, invites sealed bids for furnishing the following:

### 4-Wheel Front Mower

This equipment is to be delivered to the Department of Public Works, 555 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Interested bidders may pick up a bid specifications package for Bid 2005-1 at:

**City of Greenbelt Finance Office  
25 Crescent Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770**

Please call the Department of Public Works at (301) 474-8004 regarding bid submission questions. Bids must be **RECEIVED** no later than 02/25/05 at 10 a.m. Bids will be opened publicly at 10:10a.m. on 02/25/05.





PHOTO BY JAMES GIESE

A lone fisherman sets up shop on the banks of Greenbelt Lake.

## SUMMIT continued from page 1

lion in public health costs – \$2 billion from sulfur dioxide and \$600 million from fine particulates – but cleanup of that pollution is much cheaper at \$250 million, he said.

“How can we afford not to clean it up?” Schaeffer asked.

### Open Space

The potential sale of up to 3,000 acres of Maryland’s public lands to solve budget problems has ignited strong opposition across the state. The Baltimore Sun released polling data on January 9 revealing that 68 percent of those polled opposed the sale of lands purchased through the state’s “Open Space” conservation program to ease budget shortfalls.

“Open Space” funds come from a real estate transfer tax on property sold in the state since 1969. This model conservation program created a revenue source to build parks, conserve forests and open land, and maintain farms. For three years, the Ehrlich administration has diverted up to 75 percent of Open Space funds to unrelated purposes.

More than 60 state organizations have joined “Partners for Open Space” to ensure the full funding for Maryland’s land conservation programs. For additional information, visit <http://www.partnersforopenspace.org>.

### 4-Ps Bill

Maryland has an air pollution problem – and it’s not just the gray haze visible from the Beltway on sultry code-red days. The air breathed by the state’s residents has high levels of mercury and other fine particulates that can’t be seen but lodge in the lungs and have contributed to a significant rise in asthma and the expanding “dead zone” that now affects 40 percent of the Chesapeake Bay.

Sen. Paul Pinsky and Del James Hubbard have introduced the “4-P” bill that would require Maryland to control emissions of four pollutants – mercury, smog-forming nitrogen oxides, soot-forming sulfur dioxide and the “greenhouse gas,” carbon dioxide. Smog and soot in Maryland cause an estimated 20,000 asthma attacks and 900 premature deaths each year. Smog also leads to the onset of asthma, which afflicts 150,000 children in the state.

Mercury stunts the ability of the developing brain, which makes it particularly dangerous for pregnant women and children.

Out of 12 states evaluated in a recent study, Maryland had the highest average concentration of mercury in its rain. Mercury contamination has resulted in a fish consumption advisory in Maryland that covers every river and lake in the state. Recent data on mercury contamination in rockfish (striped bass) in the Chesapeake Bay, however, were not announced to the public.

Where does the pollution come from? According to the coalition’s issue brief, in 1970, when the Clean Air Act was enacted, existing power plants were exempted on the theory that they would soon be retired. Thirty-five years later, Maryland still has seven “grandfathered” power plants up to 60 years old that continue to produce hazardous particulates without pollution controls.

### Clean Cars

To date, eight states have passed legislation to achieve the maximum practical reductions in toxic emissions from cars and trucks and the Maryland Clean Cars Act would add the state to the list. Cars and trucks are a major source of cancer-causing chemicals like benzene – in Maryland, nine times higher than safety standards – and formaldehyde, at ten times the safety standard in the state’s air.

The Clean Cars Act has slightly higher standards for the fleetwide average emissions of all new cars and light trucks and a requirement that a percentage of new cars sold be advanced technology vehicles. This bill would result in 23 percent less air toxics and 14 percent less hydrocarbons than the default federal standards by 2020. It requires little public expense. New Jersey adopted the higher standard at no cost to its budget.

### Transportation Equity

At the summit, opponents of the proposed \$3 billion ICC passed out stickers saying, “No ICC.”

In the issue brief, alternatives were listed including more and better transit services, improvement of existing roads and highways and planning development of homes and jobs by creating incentives to build closer to transit centers and reduce commuting time.

The ICC’s environment impact would be significant – the loss of more than 4,000 acres of land, around 30 miles of streams and additional losses of farms, wetlands and floodplain.

## DAVIS continued from page 1

board of directors and an honor to the City of Greenbelt and city council. During her one-year term, her role will be to preside at meetings, serve as an ex officio member of all policy committees, be the principal spokesperson to the press, serve on the Board of Trade and appoint chairs and vice chairs of policy committees.

As chair, she intends to promote the issues of Greenbelt and make use of her role in promoting the agenda of decisions discussed by the city council. Davis would like to use her year as chair to emphasize issues of “Smart Growth” and the environment and revitalizing and redeveloping certain areas. The challenge, she explains, is to maintain the unique character of the center of small towns while addressing these issues. She adds that, in her travels, she enjoys leaving the suburbs of a city and experiencing the unique qualities of the city center.

Davis has previously represented Greenbelt in various capacities to COG, most recently as vice chairman of COG’s board of directors. She was appointed to COG’s Ad Hoc Digital Divide Task Force, Strategic Planning Committee and Chesapeake

Policy Committee and has been COG’s liaison to the Potomac Regional Education Partnership Advisory Board and to the Advisory Board of the Institute of Regional Excellence.

In addition to her work with COG, Davis has worked in various capacities with National League of Cities and several state and county municipal groups. She was selected as Woman of the Year 2000-01 by the Business and Professional Women/USA.

Since moving to Greenbelt in 1975, Davis has been active in many local civic organizations. She is in her sixth term on the city council. A retired educator, she was also active in that profession.

### COG

COG is composed of two independent committees which address regional transportation and air quality; two environmental-issue task forces; the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council; three public-private partnerships; and several policy committees.

COG also has a cooperative purchasing program to reduce costs to member jurisdictions. It provides issue briefs on its website, [www.mwcog.org](http://www.mwcog.org), to fos-

ter understanding between elected officials and the public. The position of chair rotates between officials of Maryland, D.C. and Virginia.

The policy committees of COG include the Committee on Noise Abatement and Aviation at Dulles and National Airports, Public Safety, Human Services, the Chesapeake Bay and Metropolitan Development. There are also committees for chief administrative officers and public works directors.

Some examples of recent work include a green infrastructure project, a national storm-water management conference, several health-related task forces, a housing opportunities program and a hydrogen technology forum. COG also has assumed authority over the new Regional Incident Communications and Coordination System, which allows rapid contact between regional officials during an emergency. A specially-created panel to study funding sources of WMATA recently released its findings to the board of directors.

Greenbelt is well represented on these policy committees, with several councilmembers and other city officials serving on at least six.

## GREENBRIAR continued from page 1

interior and exterior renovations. Fifteen volunteer residents representing all three phases reviewed the plans and chose a final plan and colors.

Once the project began, only slight changes became necessary. Buildings were placed on the schedule for renovation by a lottery method, ensuring that all phases were represented on the schedule in equal numbers.

### Construction Process

Construction began in March 2000, with a plan for a six-year period for completion in order to avoid depleting reserve funds or necessitating an increase in condo fees. However, as CVI hired many of its own workers rather than mainly using contractors, work proceeded at a faster rate. Renovations were complete in March 2004, two years ahead of the estimated completion time. At a rate of approximately \$27,000 per building, the total cost of the project was \$1.35 million.

Phase III opted to spend additional funds from its budget for a landscape architect and landscaping, due to its location next to parkland. It added brick walkways and islands of plantings. Similarly, Phase II added trees along Hanover Parkway.

Noda believes that the renovations are having a positive effect on resale values. For example, a two-bedroom unit recently sold for \$20,000 more than its original asking price. Jennifer Fullmer, operations manager of CVI, believes that the renovations have “definitely increased property values.” She adds that CVI has received “very positive comments” and that the renovations went smoothly with minimal disruption to the residents.

CVI, the management company that oversees all of Greenbriar, has an onsite office. It is assisted by the Greenbriar Condominium Association and the board of directors of each

phase. Their interest in the community is evidenced by its many amenities and renovation in 2004 of the Terrace Room and of the pool area several years ago.

Possible future plans to continue renovations involve the exteriors of each building.

## Meeting to Be Held On School Budget

A FY2006 budget worksession for the Prince George’s County Board of Education will be held in Upper Marlboro on February 5. The location is the Board Room of the Sasscer Administration Building at 14201 School Lane.

The meeting is open to the public; however, there will be no public participation. No time has been indicated, so call the Board of Education at 301-952-6308 for more information.

## Live Broadcast At Owens Center

A live one-hour broadcast of the Jason Expedition from Louisiana will be held at the Howard B. Owens Science Center from January 31 through February 5. Students and teachers from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center area will have the opportunity to interact with scientists and researchers from NASA, NOAA, Louisiana State University and other institutions during this expedition. The expedition host is Dr. Bob Ballard, discoverer of the Titanic and founder/chief scientist of the Jason Foundation for Education.

Public broadcast times are: Thursday, February 3, 3:30 to 5 p.m.; Friday, February 4, 3:30 to 5 p.m.; Saturday, February 5, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, February 5, 12:30 to 2 p.m. and Saturday, February 5, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Call 301-918-8750 during school hours to reserve seating space.



There's a new Bingo starting at the Fire House on Thursday, February 3.

## New Bingo Starting Thursday Evenings Greenbelt Fire House

125 Crescent Rd.  
Door open 6:00 pm  
Earlybirds start 7:15 pm  
Free Food and Drink  
Free 3-pack to everyone the first night.



GREENBELT CONSUMER  
**CO-OP**  
SUPERMARKET  
PHARMACY  
  
*“Your Local Full Service  
Community Owned  
Supermarket & Pharmacy”*  
121 CENTERWAY, ROOSEVELT CENTER

Farm Fresh Produce	
Red Ripe Sweet Grape Tomatoes	<b>99¢</b> Pint
Crunchy Cut & Peeled Baby Carrots	<b>99¢</b> lb.
Ready-To-Eat Fresh Crisp Garden Salad	<b>99¢</b> 16 oz. Pk.
Ripe Juicy California Navel Oranges	<b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b> 8 lb. Bag
Washington State Crunchy Apples	<b>99¢</b> lb.
Red Ripe Strawberries	<b>\$3<sup>49</sup></b> 1 lb. Container
Granny Smith-Delicious-Royal Gala	

Fresh Quality Meats			
Shurfine Value Pack Split Chicken Breasts	<b>\$1<sup>29</sup></b> lb.	93% Super Lean Ground Turkey	<b>\$1<sup>79</sup></b> lb.
		Coleman All Natural Boneless Sirloin Tip Steak	<b>\$5<sup>99</sup></b> lb.
Hillshire Farm Smoked Sausage Assorted 1 lb. Pk.	<b>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE</b>	Fresh Lean Stuffed Pork Loin Chops	<b>\$3<sup>49</sup></b> lb.
		Eberly Organic Whole Chicken	<b>\$3<sup>29</sup></b> lb.
		Chef's Fresh Beef Boneless Ribeye Delmonico Steak	<b>\$6<sup>49</sup></b> lb.
		Ballpark Meat Franks Assorted 16 oz.	<b>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE</b>

DAIRY	DELI	FROZEN
Minute Maid Premium Orange Juice Assorted 64 oz.	Deli Gourmet Oven Roasted Turkey Breast	Turkey Hill Ice Cream Assorted 48-56 oz.
Kraft Philadelphia Cream Cheese Regular-Less Fat 8 oz. Brick	Deli Style Roast Beef	Banquet Meat Pot Pies Beef-Chicken-Turkey 7 oz.
Kraft Cracker Barrel Cheese Assorted 8-10 oz.	Tender Juicy Rotisserie Chicken	Ore-Ida French Fries Assorted 22-32 oz.
<b>2/\$6</b>	<b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> lb.	<b>4/\$2</b>
<b>3/\$6</b>	<b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b> lb.	<b>2/\$5</b>
<b>2/\$3</b>	<b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b> Each	<b>2/\$4</b>
HEALTH & BEAUTY	SEAFOOD	NATURAL & GOURMET
Crest Toothpaste Assorted 4-6.2 oz.	Mild & Flaky Basa Fillets	Dare Vinta Multigrain Crackers
<b>2/\$5</b>	<b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> lb.	<b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b> 8.8 oz.
Scope Mouthwash 1 Liter Bottle	Ready-To-Eat Jumbo Cooked Shrimp	Bigelow Herb Teas Chamomile-Orange Spice-Peach-Raspberry-Mint-Sweet Dreams Assorted 18-20 Pk.
<b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>\$17<sup>99</sup></b> 2 lb.	<b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b>
		Fresh Instore Baked Organic Sesame Semolina Bread
		<b>\$2<sup>49</sup></b> 16 oz.
		Fresh Instore Baked Ciabatta Loaf
		<b>\$3<sup>49</sup></b>

GROCERY BARGAINS				
Francisco Rinaldi Spaghetti Sauce Assorted 26 oz.	Kraft Mayonnaise Regular-Light 32 oz.	General Mills Chex Cereals Assorted 15-16 oz.	Kraft Salad Dressings Assorted 8 oz.	Bumble Bee Chunk Light Tuna 6 oz.
<b>99¢</b>	<b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>2/\$5</b>	<b>99¢</b>	<b>5/\$3</b>
Skippy Peanut Butter Assorted 18 oz.	Nestle Hot Cocoa Mix Assorted 10 Pk.	Tide Ultra Laundry Detergent Assorted 80-87 oz.	Nabisco Premium Saltine Crackers Assorted 11-16 oz.	Nabisco Chips Ahoy Cookies Assorted 14-18 oz.
<b>2/\$3</b>	<b>99¢</b>	<b>\$5<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b>

BEER & WINE		PROFESSIONAL PHARMACY
Schlitz Beer 12 Pk-12 oz. Cans	McHenry Beer 6 Pk. - 12 oz. Bottles	Yuengling Beer 6 Pk.-12 oz. Cans
<b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>\$5<sup>29</sup></b>	<b>\$4<sup>39</sup></b>
Lindeman's Cawarra Wines 1.5 Liter	Beringer White Zinfandel Wine 1.5 Liter	Black Swan Wines 750 ML
<b>\$8<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>\$9<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b>
<p>To Better Serve You...  CO-OP Has Expanded Our Weekly Sale Ad Program.  Look For Our  <i>New, Bigger, Brighter, 6 Page Full Color Ad Flier</i>  Enclosed In Your Weekly News Review.  See Our New Ad Flier For Lots Of Additional Sale Bargains &amp; Savings\$.  Extra Ad Flyers Available Instore.  <b>Check It Out!</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ We Honor Most Prescription Plans</li> <li>■ Medicare Billing</li> <li>■ Courteous, Knowledgeable Staff</li> <li>■ Free Home Delivery Of Prescriptions Mon.-Wed.-Fri.</li> <li>■ Free Blood Pressure Tester</li> <li>■ Durable Medical Equipment Sales &amp; Rental</li> </ul>

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6						

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# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department. Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

### Assault

January 16, 10:46 p.m., Beltway Plaza Mall, a woman reported that she was walking in the front parking lot of the mall when she was approached by a man, who at first attempted to strike up a conversation with her, then grabbed her by the arm and pulled her toward him. The woman pulled free and fled the scene. The suspect is described as a black male, 19 to 20 years of age, 5'9" to 5'10", 165 to 170 pounds with black hair and brown eyes, wearing a dark jacket, blue jeans and a ski mask.

January 17, 8:05 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Drive, a resident man was arrested and charged with attempting to disarm a police officer, two counts of second degree assault and two counts of resisting arrest. Police, leaving the scene of a burglary call, observed a suspicious person inside a laundry room. He claimed that he was doing laundry but had no laundry with him. He then placed an object he had concealed in his hand into his mouth. An officer grabbed the man, who broke free and fled the laundry room. A second officer attempted to detain him as he ran up a flight of stairs. The man attempted to take the officer's gun from his holster, assaulted both officers and resisted attempts to place him in custody. He was transported to the hospital for treatment of minor injuries while resisting arrest and was released to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner. It was later discovered that one of the police suffered a fractured elbow during the incident.

### Attempted Carjacking

January 14, 8:31 p.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, a man reported that he was sitting in his vehicle in the parking lot when his vehicle was blocked in by another vehicle that pulled behind him. A man approached the victim, displayed a handgun and ordered him out of his vehicle. The victim put his vehicle in reverse, as if to hit the suspect vehicle. The man then got back into the waiting vehicle and with another suspect fled the scene. The suspect who approached the victim's vehicle is described as a black male, 18 to 25 years of age, 5'11" with a thin build and black hair in dreadlocks, wearing a gray T-shirt and blue jeans.

### Weapons

January 12, in reference to the theft of a handgun reported February 4, 2003, from the 6400 block of Ivy Lane, the weapon was recovered by the Metropolitan Police Department. One arrest was made.

January 16, 12:12 a.m., Springhill Drive and Springhill Court, two resident men were arrested and charged with trans-

porting a handgun in a vehicle. Police stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation and a computer check revealed that the driver had an open warrant with the Prince George's County Sheriff's Department. Located inside the vehicle was a loaded .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun. Both men were released to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

### Drugs

January 15, 9:55 p.m., T.G.I.Friday's Restaurant, a non-resident woman was arrested and charged with possession of cocaine with intent to distribute and possession of cocaine. A man was arrested and charged with carrying a dangerous weapon, two counts of assault, driving while impaired and driving under the influence. Police observed the man acting in a disorderly manner, shouting obscenities from a vehicle in the restaurant parking lot. Police approached the driver and asked for a license. The suspect produced his license, along with a butterfly type knife. He was arrested and found to be in possession of another knife. The woman, a passenger in the vehicle, was asked for identification. When she opened her purse police observed in plain view a quantity of suspected "crack" cocaine, packaged as though for sale. Both suspects were transported to the station, at which time the man kicked one officer and spit on another one. Both were released to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

### DWI

January 13, 11:59 p.m., Kenilworth Avenue and I-495, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with driving while impaired, driving under the influence, reckless driving and negligent driving after he drove off the roadway into a ditch. He was released on citations pending trial.

January 16, 3:31 a.m., Beltway Plaza Mall, a resident woman was arrested and charged with driving while impaired, driving under the influence, negligent driving and speeding after being stopped for a traffic violation. She was released on citations pending trial.

### Prescription Fraud

January 18, 11:57 a.m., Greenway Center, a nonresident woman was arrested and charged with two counts of obtaining a prescription drug by fraud after she allegedly called in fraudulent prescriptions to the Safeway Pharmacy. She was arrested on the scene when she attempted to pick up the prescriptions and was released to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

### Burglary

January 12, 7:16 p.m., 6100

## Pedestrian Fatality

On Saturday, January 22 at approximately 7:20 p.m., police responded to a report of a pedestrian accident in the area of Greenbelt Road and Lakecrest Drive. Preliminary investigation revealed that the victim, Neil Prendable, 48, of Greenbelt was walking in the area of westbound Greenbelt Road, east of Lakecrest Drive when a Saturn Vue SUV apparently spun out of control. The vehicle struck the victim then hit a fence. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. It is unknown at this time if Prendable was in the roadway or on the sidewalk when he was struck.

The driver of the SUV, an 18-year-old Riverdale man, was transported to Prince George's Hospital for minor injuries. The investigation is continuing.

block Springhill Terrace, it was reported that unknown person(s) entered the residence by breaking out the patio window. A rifle, a .9mm semi-automatic handgun, clothing and DVDs were taken.

January 19, 6:07 p.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive, it was reported that unknown person(s) entered the residence by breaking out a bedroom window. A video game player and a video game were taken.

### Vehicle Crimes

Four vehicles were stolen: a 1993 Ford Taurus 4-door from the 6100 block Springhill Terrace; a 1995 Toyota Corolla 4-door from the 6200 block Springhill Drive; a red 2002 Hyundai Accent 4-door, Maryland tags KDG290 from the 6100 block Springhill Terrace; and a brown 2004 Ford Taurus 4-door, Maryland tags MZV373 from the 6100 block Breezewood Drive. A 1997 Pontiac Grand Am 4-door was taken for unauthorized use from the 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive.

Six vehicles were recovered, one by Greenbelt police with no arrests and five by other police departments with arrests made in one recovery. One set of tags, Maryland A075703, are still out as stolen. One set of vehicle tags were recovered by Greenbelt police and an arrest was made. One vehicle that was reported as stolen was found to have been impounded.

Vandalism to, thefts from and attempted thefts of vehicles were reported in the following areas: 7500 block Somerset Court, 8200 block Canning Terrace, 7800 block Mandan Road, 7300 block Morrison Drive, 7800 block Cloister Place, 7700 block Ora Court, 7900 block Lakecrest Drive, 6000 block Cherrywood Court, 5800 block Cherrywood Lane, 5900 block Cherrywood Lane, 5900 block Springhill Drive and Beltway Plaza Mall.

## New Post Office Under Construction



Work began this week on clearing the property on Hanover Parkway and Ora Glen Drive (except for a small lot on the corner) for the construction of the new Greenbelt Post Office. The first task was bulldozing an entrance road off Ora Glen Drive, laying down plastic conduit and covering with crushed rock. A groundbreaking ceremony is expected to be scheduled shortly.

## Fire & Rescue Log

The Fire Department Logbook is a bi-weekly report of the activities and news from the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. (GVFD). The report includes recent incidents, GVFD news and upcoming events, fire safety and other fire department related information.

### Incident Report

From January 8 to January 21, the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) responded to a total of 71 fire engine and 61 ambulance calls.

Those calls break down as follows: seven reports of smoke or fire, 13 automatic fire alarms, three gas leaks, 18 motor vehicle accidents and 65 medical calls.

### Berwyn Hts. House Fire

On the afternoon of January 18, the engine from GVFD responded along with other area units to a report of a house fire in Berwyn Heights. Units arrived on scene to find both smoke and fire coming from the house. The fire was brought under control in about 10 minutes. There were no injuries reported.

### Heating Unit Safety

It is important for those who use a wood burning stove, electrical or kerosene space heater or fireplace to use caution. All of these heating sources are the cause of thousands of fires a year and need to be properly maintained and used.

The most important safety tip for any heating unit is to regularly inspect it for cleanliness and damage. Be sure to keep combustible material at least three feet away from any heating

source. Keep the unit well ventilated. For wood stoves be sure to use only seasoned wood and for kerosene heaters use only crystal clear K-1 kerosene. Never burn trash indoors. Finally, never leave one of these units unattended while in operation.

Anyone who develops nausea, headache, dizziness or other inexplicable illness while using one of these units should call 911 and open a window. Also extinguish the heater. In the case of any fire caused by a heating unit, evacuate the home and call 911 immediately.

People using one of these units should have both working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in the home.

### Become a Volunteer

The GVFD is looking for volunteers age 16 and up. Become a firefighter, EMT or work in an administrative role. All training is provided and the time commitment is flexible. To find out more, call the station at 301-345-7000, visit the website at [www.engine35.com](http://www.engine35.com) or stop by the station and speak to an officer.

Questions and comments regarding this report or any fire department issues can be directed to [public-info@engine35.com](mailto:public-info@engine35.com) or to 301-345-7000.

## Saturday Enrichment Classes Offered

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will offer a free six-week A+ Saturday School Retreat for students in grades 3 through 8 beginning January 29. These Saturday classes are designed to enhance the academic performance of students who desire additional learning opportunities. The classes will also increase academic achievement and reinforce test sophistication strategies. Participants will focus on curriculum and materials such as "problems of the week," homework packets and Test Ready materials.

Participating Greenbelt students will attend classes at Cora L. Rice Elementary School and G. James Gholson Middle School,

situated near each other on Nally Road in Landover.

To participate in the A+ Saturday School Retreat, parents must register their child prior to the start of the program. Registration forms are available at all schools in the county and can be found online at <http://www.pgcps.org>. On-site registration is not available and parents are responsible for transportation. The program will operate from 8:45 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. beginning January 29 and ending March 5. For additional information, contact Melissa Shindel at 301-952-6396 or [melissa.shindel@pgcps.org](mailto:melissa.shindel@pgcps.org). If there is inclement weather on any scheduled program date, the session will be cancelled.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. Citizens may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 301-507-6522.



# Greenbelt's Newest Rapper Takes a Bow (Wow) Trip

Ten-year-old Greenbelter Issa Thompson won \$10,000 and the chance to meet the rap and film star “Bow Wow” as part of the grand prize in Hawaiian Punch’s “Bow Wow Unleash the Punch” contest.

The contest began in May and “rapped up” in early September. It gave kids ages 6 to 14 the chance to write, sing and submit their own rap song. Ten semi-finalists were picked from more than 300 amazing entries. From those semi-finalists, Issa’s original rap song, “Hawaiian Punch, Keeping It So Close,” was handpicked by Bow Wow himself.

“Meeting Bow Wow is a dream come true,” said an excited Issa Thompson. “I’ve been a huge fan of his for years and I hope I can be as good a rapper as he is one day.”

In addition to meeting Bow Wow and winning the \$10,000 grand prize, Issa and his mother also attended a Los Angeles filming of an episode of Steve Harvey’s “Big Time,” where Bow Wow made a special appearance.

“I love giving young kids the chance to showcase their talent,” said Bow Wow. “I was given that same opportunity when I was younger and I am so grateful for that today.”

In addition to being a talented rapper, Issa is also active in sports. He plays football for the Boys and Girls Club’s Greenbelt Raid-



A smiling Issa Thompson (left) poses with rapper Bow Wow during the Los Angeles trip he won for writing an original rap song for the contest.

ers, undefeated division champions this year. Issa, a fifth grader at a performing arts school, is active in his student government and was elected president of the school’s Student Government Association for the 2004-05 school year. In addition, Issa was recently nominated to travel to England and Ireland next summer as a “People-to-People Student Ambassador.”

Issa is the son of Jada and Karim Thompson-Peterkin of Breezewood Court. His mother is a full-time student at the University of Maryland University College and a part-time substitute teacher for Prince George’s County. His father is a research library technician for the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda.

# A Snow Storm and My Grandfather's Brush

by James Giese

While clearing the snow off of our cars after last weekend’s big snow, I began thinking about the brush I was using. This is the 51st winter that I took my grandfather’s carpenter brush out from under the car seat to remove snow. It’s about the only remembrance I have of him.

I never knew him well. When the youngest child in his family married he moved out and left my grandmother on her own. My grandmother was a devout Lutheran with no real vices. My grandfather loved to smoke, drink and dance.

He had a bad childhood. Born on a farm in Wisconsin of German immigrants, his mother died when he was three. His father remarried and died when he was six. He was raised by his stepmother and her new husband. They treated him badly. He ran away from home as a teenager.

He was handy at many things and for the most part earned his living as a carpenter. Once, in the early days of the automobile, he shared ownership of a dealership. They were brands we never hear of now. His partner took off with the company funds, leaving him with the debts.

He helped build houses in Milwaukee and owned land in various locations. Some of that land is quite valuable now but not when he sold it. He did, however, provide comfortably but frugally, for his family until the marriage breakup.

At Christmas, I would go with my dad to give him his gift. He



The author takes a nostalgic look at the snow and his grandfather's brush.

lived in rooming houses – gloomy, big old structures sparsely furnished with hand-me-downs and second-hands. His room smelled of pipe tobacco smoke. He had gray hair, a white mustache and a round face, somewhat stern, but he could smile. The encounters were quite stiff. Occasionally, he would come to our house for dinner. We never did anything as a grandfather-grandson.

I remember Dad would ask if he was still dancing and he would say yes and tell of some of the places to which he would go that had dancing. Although in his 70s, he still did odd jobs. I remember one year he was upset because he had fallen from a two-and-one-half story building roof and sprained his ankle. It wasn’t the fall, it was that he had been injured and laid up for a while.

In 1954, the year my grandfather died at 81, I got out of the army and enrolled in graduate school in Kansas. I needed a car. My dad, as executor of grandfather’s estate, arranged for

me to get his 1946 Buick. It was my first car.

In it was a well used carpenter’s brush – a long row of strong but bent bristles along one side of a wooden handle. He obviously had used it to remove snow from his car and I continued to do so. The

strong bristles dig in to grab the snow and push it away. When there is ice, once the car warms up a little, gentle taps with the wooden handle are enough to break it up so it can be swept away.

Since then I have had many cars. I have had the opportunity to use many devices to remove snow and ice from them. None work as well or have lasted as long as my grandfather’s brush.

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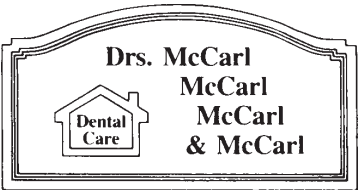
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U.C. = Under contract; seller may consider back-up offers





WRECKAGE continued from page 1

his activities on the property he had visited the Entomology Laboratory Building on Entomology Road. Behind that building the laboratory staff had erected what he thought was a storage-shed built from recycled materials. The main article used in the storage-shed construction was the fuselage from an old DC-3 airplane. It sat for years near the Entomology Lab. The wings and engines had been removed but most of the rest of the plane was clearly recognizable as a DC-3. Godwin said that the plane is gone now and believes it was removed six or seven years ago.

After a few calls to the BARC Entomology Department, I located Ken Wilzer, a longtime BARC employee from the Bee Research Division. Wilzer confirmed the story of a DC-3 fuselage being placed near the Entomology Lab. However, he said the original purpose of the fuselage was to test the effectiveness of certain aerosol insecticides to decontaminate planes arriving from outside the country.

He believed that the placement of the fuselage probably contributed to the rumors of a crashed plane. It was set up behind the laboratory building and at the edge of the tree line. From the air or even from the road it may have appeared to be a crashed plane. He said the fuselage eventually fell into disrepair and abandonment. BARC property management staff removed it.

I still wasn't satisfied with the way things had turned out. I needed some kind of closure.

One Sunday afternoon in late April I drove out with my son to the suspected crash site to look around. It was a cornfield still bare from the previous year's harvest. I walked the field and carefully searched for any sign of debris from the crash. There was nothing. The tree line along the road near the farm field did have a gap that could have been damage caused by the crash. I photographed the area with my digital camera so I could compare it to the pictures in the old newspaper clippings I had collected.

When I got home and made the comparison, I was satisfied that I had found the right place. There were cars in the picture and, based on their angle in relation to the camera, they appeared to be near a road intersection. That intersection could only have been what is the present day corner of Beaverdam and Springfield roads. It was a good closing. But I still wasn't completely satisfied that I had done everything I could. I didn't know what else to do.

By late May, Bill Needham and I had been communicating by phone and email for more than three months and had never met face to face. He offered to buy me breakfast if I would meet with him someplace. I told him we should get together and visit the cornfield where I believed the

plane had crashed. He had been searching for the site of the crash for the past 30 years with no luck, so he was all for it. We decided to meet at a Denny's restaurant in Greenbelt, have breakfast and drive over.

Ironically we got together at Denny's on Memorial Day 2004. While the rest of the country was busy watching dedication ceremonies for the World War II Memorial Monument, Bill was showing me a large collection of letters, pictures and documents about his father. We discussed my findings and how I became involved in this whole endeavor. After about an hour, we packed up and headed over to the airfield.

I brought my digital camera, metal detector and hand shovel along. The plan was to go out to the cornfield and try to judge the exact location of the crash, based on the old newspaper clippings and photographs. We would then try to discover any small buried pieces of the plane with the metal detector to confirm the crash site. I didn't expect to find much.

Just after we arrived at the cornfield it started to rain but not hard enough to stop us. After about ten minutes of walking the cornfield and comparing the pictures with the actual site, we settled upon what we judged to be the right spot and switched on the metal detector. Ten minutes into the search we got a good signal and started digging.

We hit pay dirt. We found a large shiny stainless steel nut buried about eight or nine inches below the surface. This had to be a part from the airplane; the quality of the machining was much too high to be from a tractor or other farm equipment. The nut was about one and one half inches in diameter and there was no sign of rust or corrosion. The place where we recovered it was in the exact spot where we estimated the crash site to be.

Thirty minutes later we found another nut, same size, at the same depth under the surface of the soil. It was about 20 feet away from where the first one was found. This was an unbelievable discovery, much better than anything I had expected to find.

We were now both satisfied we had accomplished our goal, we had confirmed the site of the crash. After all his years of searching, Bill was extremely happy to have an actual piece from his father's plane. We kept working for about a half hour longer but didn't find any more.

There was a large area of the cornfield remaining to be searched but by then we were getting cold and wet from the rain and decided to stop. We returned to the cars. Bill kept one of the stainless steel nuts and I kept the other as a souvenir. We took some pictures, shook hands, congratulated each other and headed home. We were done.

So now all the mysteries are



At top left, Timothy Smith, the reporter, points to where stainless steel nuts were found.

Bottom left, the author's son Brian, 9, enjoys the initial outing which sparked an adventure in a cornfield and on the internet.

Bottom right, Bill Needham holds the two stainless steel nuts recovered from the field directly behind him. Needham's father, a Navy pilot, died in the 1945 crash. This photo was taken on Memorial Day 2004.



solved. The large patch of land laid out in the shape of the small letter "t" to the northwest of Washington is the site of the former Beltsville Airfield. There had been a crash of an R-50 Lockheed Lodestar airplane there in the spring of 1945. U.S. Navy Lt. William O. Needham and one other crewmember died in that crash. Seven other people on the plane survived with injuries. The exact location of the crash was found and it was determined that the wreckage was removed years ago, shortly after the accident.

The rumor about wreckage from a DC-3 lying somewhere in the woods near Beltsville Airfield turned out to be untrue and unrelated to the crash of the R-50. The main fuselage section of a DC-3 that had been used as a test bed for aerosol insecticides by the BARC Entomology Department most likely was mistaken for aircraft wreckage and became the source of the crashed airplane rumor.

I am happy I had the opportunity to help Bill Needham and hope that it took him a few steps closer to the memory of his father. Perhaps this makes another payment toward my debt to all veterans and their families.

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